15 APRIL 2016 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NME

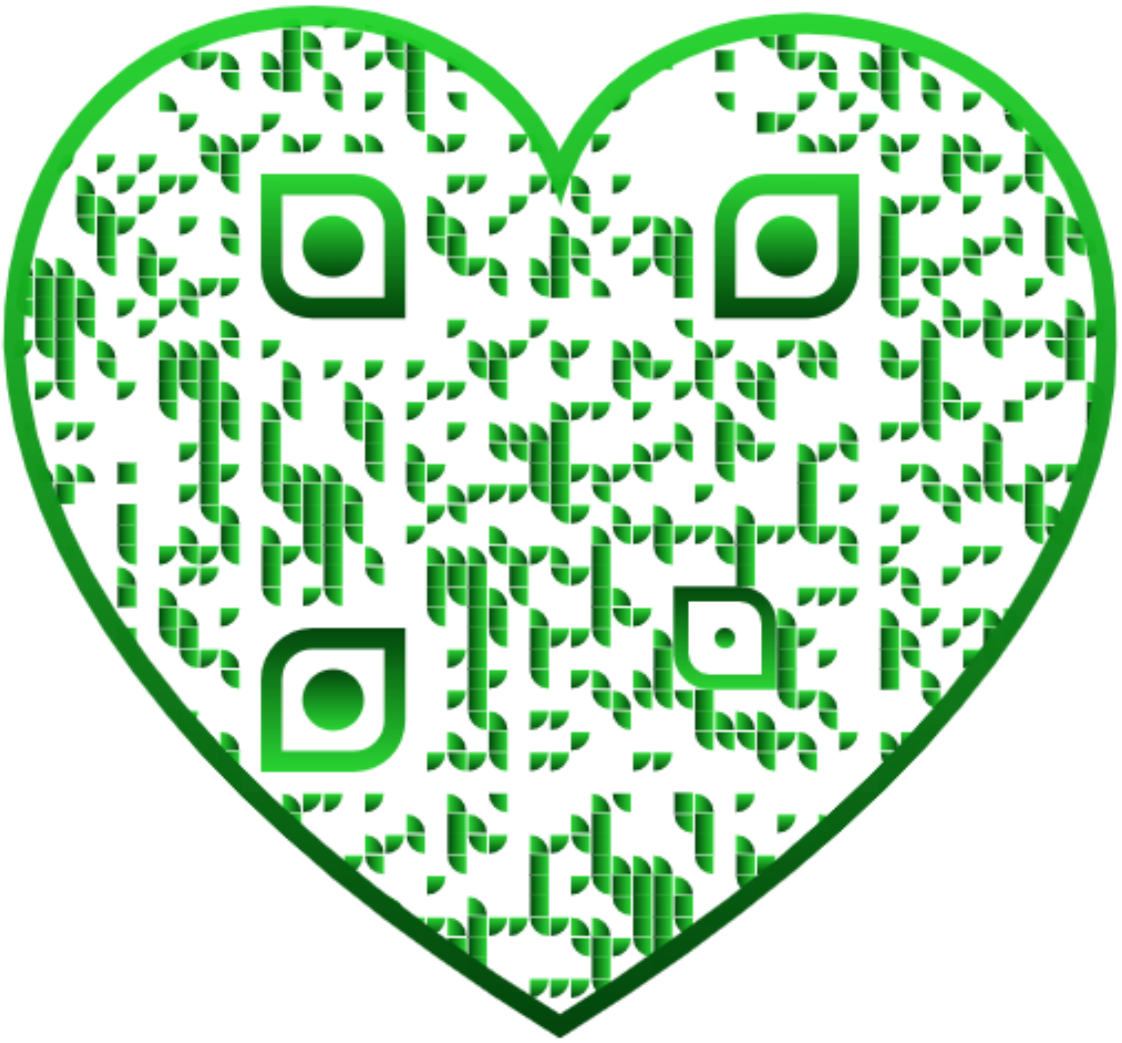
MUSIC
FILM
STYLE

IDRIS ELBA

HOW TO WIN AT EVERYTHING!

Plus

GUIDE! ESSENTIAL RECORD STORE DAY



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NME

Hello...

IF WE'RE ALL OBSESSED with Netflix And Chilling in 2016, a massive reason for that is the incredible Baltimore drug odyssey *The Wire* and the boxset culture it helped launch. I assume you've either seen it or have had enough people bang on to you relentlessly about its brilliance that you'll know Idris Elba was in it and that he played a man called Stringer Bell. It's not over the top to describe Stringer as being up there with THE GREAT television characters of all time. He's wise, he's ambitious, he's intimidating. He turns gangland drug running into entrepreneurialism, and his fall is almost Shakespearean. OK, that *is* over the top.

Elba's new film *The Jungle Book* is out this week. In the 14 years since he became Stringer, he's played arse-kicking cop Luther, civil rights activist Nelson Mandela, and now he's angry tiger Shere Khan. He's one of Britain's most successful, accomplished modern actors and in his *NME* cover story he lets us in on how he achieved it. Prepare to be inspired….

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

PJ Harvey p22

COVER STORY

FEATURES

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"All these things I do are about influencing the next generation."

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How she went from art school to war poet in a pink catsuit.

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Behind the picket lines with five docs trying to save the NHS.

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COVER PHOTO: DEAN CHALKLEY CONTENTS PHOTO: SEAMUS MURPHY

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SATURDAY 25 COVENTRY RICOH ARENA
MONDAY 27 GLASGOW HAMPDEN PARK
WEDNESDAY 29 MANCHESTER EMIRATES OLD TRAFFORD

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Lily vs Dave

Lily Allen joins protest calling for Prime Minister David Cameron to resign after the Panama Papers revelations

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, including pop singer Lily Allen, gathered outside Downing Street in London last Saturday after reports that the Prime Minister had previously benefited from an offshore trust.

Following the protest, David Cameron posted his tax returns for the last six years, causing Allen to tweet: "Your tax returns show what you HAVE declared… If you were sitting on a load of money in say, the Bahamas, it wouldn't show up on your tax return, right?"

Earlier this month the Blairmore investment fund, which was owned by Cameron's dad Ian, was named in the leaked Panama Papers that exposed the financial records and offshore accounts of public figures including Vladimir Putin and Simon Cowell.

This led to the Conservative leader admitting he'd sold shares in the fund for £31,500 shortly before becoming PM in 2010. Responding to the news, Allen tweeted: "It's very important that [the Prime Minister] resigns."

It has not been suggested that Cameron has done anything illegal.

Round two

Ding ding!

Another #resigncameron protest will take place in London this Saturday April 16. Events will also be happening in Brighton, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow. For more information visit facebook.com/TimeToResign

PHOTOS: XPOSURE, WENN

Excelleeeeeeeeent!

Bill from *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* is making a film about Frank Zappa

DOCUMENTARY MAKER AND actor Alex Winter has raised $1 million on crowd-funding website Kickstarter to make *Who The F*@% Is Frank Zappa?*, a film about the cult musician who died in 1993.

Zappa in 1974

Why does the world need this documentary?
"There's never been a full-on doc about Frank Zappa's life from birth to passing. It's important because he was such a seminal artist, composer, wit and thinker."

Why has no one made a proper Zappa doc before?
"Until recently Zappa's family didn't have control over his back catalogue, so it was difficult for a documentary maker to use his music. But in a way, Frank Zappa is really coming into his time now. Due to the digital revolution and the way millennials function, a multihyphenate like Zappa is more processable today."

You've been granted access to Zappa's hallowed vault. Will the contents surprise us?
"Man, without a doubt. Everything is down there: stuff he did with Captain Beefheart in high school, old notebooks, paintings, the master recordings from his live shows and all these interviews nobody has ever seen. There's more down there than I have time in my life to go through."

When will you finish the film?
"Getting access to the vault has added another two years to the project. For the next year. I'm doing nothing but archival preservation. It's a mammoth undertaking. If I didn't love Zappa, I'd shoot myself!"

So what's going on with *Bill & Ted 3*?
"Me, Keanu [Reeves, who plays Ted] and original writers Chris Matheson and Ed Solomon are getting the final touches done on the script. The general hook is: what are Bill and Ted like in middle age? It's Hollywood, so it could all go tits up, but we're basically in the early stages of pre-production. With all the will in the world, we should be able to make that f*cker this year."

Alex Winter, AKA Bill S Preston

GOOD WEEK

TYLER, THE CREATOR
The rapper broke the internet with his new T-shirts that feature Donald Trump's face graffitied with a Hitler moustache.

SOPHIE TURNER
The *Game Of Thrones* actress has talked up her character's role in series, six, describing Sansa Stark as a "boss ass bitch".

AXL ROSE
He broke his foot before Guns N' Roses' reunion tour, but styled it out by performing on a throne at a Las Vegas show.

BAD WEEK

WORDS: NICK LEVINE PHOTOS: ALLSTARPL.COM, GETTY, REX

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12 essential Record Store Day releases

The annual jamboree takes place on April 16, with a sweet selection of exclusive releases up for grabs at over 200 record shops across the UK. Get there early!

Need to know

Essential info about Record Store Day 2016

Where is it?
All over the UK. More than 200 independent record stores are participating, so chances are there'll be one near you.

What's on offer?
Coloured vinyl, limited edition pressings, reissues.

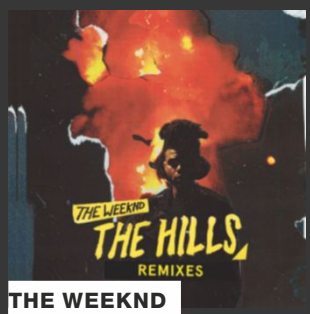
Any free gigs?
Loads. Here are three good ones:
1 Band Of Skulls at Pie & Vinyl in Southsea.
2 Hannah Peel at *eight* record shops across south England, from Brighton to Whitstable.
3 Horsebeach and **Blooms** at The Deaf Institute in Manchester.

What if I don't have a record player?
Doesn't matter! The Flaming Lips (a reworking of their 1995 'Clouds Taste Metallic') and Metallica (a 2003 live show) are releasing CDs. Marilyn Manson's career-best 'Antichrist Superstar' will pop up on cassette.

Any advice?
Banquet Records in London says: "Bring some cash, bring a smile, bring an open mind, bring a smartphone."

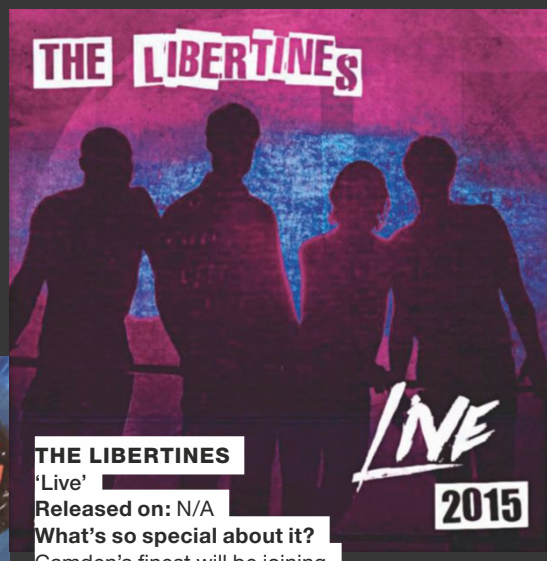
Where can I find more info?
recordstoreday.co.uk

SLAVES
Are You Satisfied?
Released on: Hot pink vinyl
What's so special about it?
Slaves' debut is jam-packed with nine extra tracks, including a vicious cover of Skepta's 'Shutdown' and fan favourite 'Where's Your Car Debbie?'.

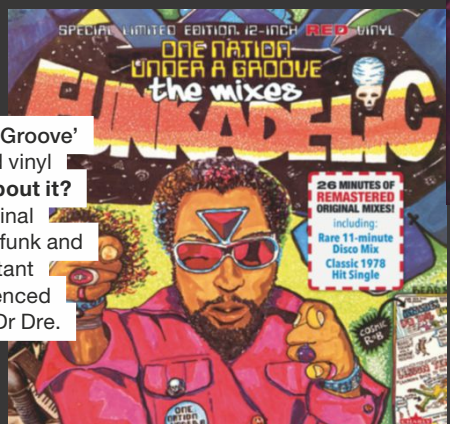


THE WEEKND
'The Hills'
Released on: 12" vinyl
What's so special about it
The finest moment from 2015's 'Beauty Behind The Madness' gets remixed, with new verses from Eminem and Nicki Minaj.

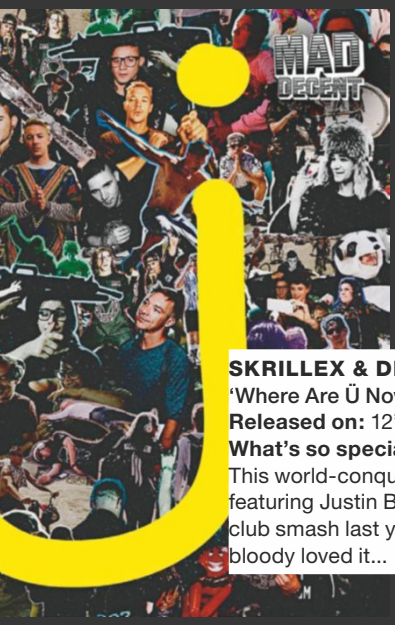
DAVID BOWIE
'The Man Who Sold The World'
Released on: 12" picture disc
What's so special about it?
'The Man Who Sold The World' follows in the footsteps of 'Changes', 'Rebel Rebel' and many more Bowie classics and gets the picture disc treatment.



THE LIBERTINES
'Live'
Released on: N/A
What's so special about it?
Camden's finest will be joining in the fun with live versions from last year's triumphant tour. No track listing just yet.



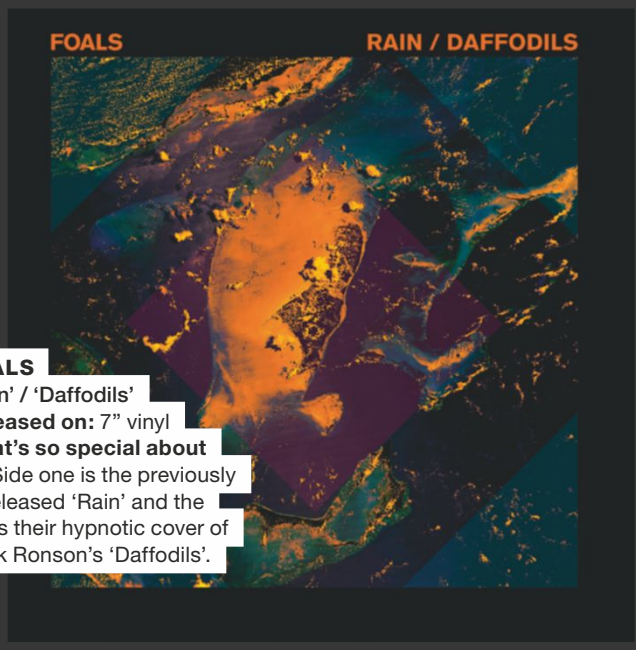
FUNKADELIC
'One Nation Under A Groove'
Released on: 12" red vinyl
What's so special about it?
George Clinton's seminal 1978 record is one of funk and hip hop's most important albums and has influenced Kendrick Lamar and Dr Dre.



SKRILLEX & DIPLO
'Where Are Ü Now?'
Released on: 12" yellow vinyl
What's so special about it? This world-conquering banger featuring Justin Bieber was a club smash last year, and you bloody loved it...

MAC DEMARCO
'Another One (Demos)'
Released on: Black vinyl
What's so special about it? Last year's mini-album 'Some Other Ones' was a lo-fi delight. These are the unheard demos of those tracks.

IAN BROWN
'Solarized'
Released on: single 12" vinyl
What's so special about it? For the first time, Ian Brown's 2004 solo album – which features Noel Gallagher collaboration 'Keep What Ya Got' – will be pressed to vinyl.



FOALS
'Rain' / 'Daffodils'
Released on: 7" vinyl
What's so special about it? Side one is the previously unreleased 'Rain' and the flip is their hypnotic cover of Mark Ronson's 'Daffodils'.

CHASE & STATUS
'London Bars'
Released on: Heavyweight 12" vinyl
What's so special about it? It's the first time the London drum'n'bass duo's collaboration with grime heroes Giggs and Novelist will be available on a physical format.

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE
'Delilah' / 'Only Love Can Break Your Heart'
Released on: 12" blue vinyl
What's so special about it? It'll include both an album and demo version of Flo's 2015 single 'Delilah', alongside a cover of Neil Young's 'Only Love Can Break Your Heart'.

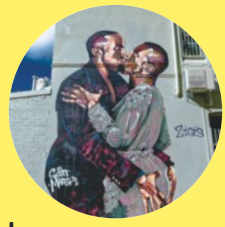
NIRVANA
'Live On Kaos FM, Seattle – 1987'
Released on: 12" coloured vinyl
What's so special about it? Bootleg versions of this have been floating around for years. It features early versions of tracks from their 1989 debut 'Bleach'.

Turn over to pick a tasty record player to spin your new purchases on.

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

15
Original tracks to feature on the upcoming film *David Brent: Life On The Road*, according to Ricky Gervais.

5
Will Smith songs performed by musical jokers The Lonely Island at The MTV Movie Awards. Will was in the audience. Tough crowd.



$100,000
Amount artist Scott Marsh claims he was paid to paint over his graffiti art of Kanye West kissing himself in Chippendale, Sydney. He hasn't said by whom.

$1m
Cost of the world's priciest festival ticket – a deluxe pass to Secret Solstice.

WORDS: TOM SMITH PHOTOS: GETTY

THINGS WE LIKE

FOR YOUR RECORD STORE DAY HAUL

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Bermuda triangle
GPO Retro's Bermuda model is like something out of a *Mad Men* cocktail party.
£159 *gporetro.com*

Nice legs
The classic Dansette gets an update – with removable legs and monochrome colourway.
£250 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Gold sounds
This hi-tech turntable comes in black or gold – depending on your tolerance for bling.
£550 *pioneerdj.com*

High power
Convert dusty old vinyl to high-resolution audio with the Sony PS-HX500.
£450 *sony.co.uk*

Cheap tunes
A bargain player, this simple turntable is perfect for getting you on the vinyl ladder.
£29.99 *coopersofstortford.co.uk*

Slick sonics
Teac's TN-300 is all about minimal design but maximum sound. Serious quality.
£316.75 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Sound advice
Integrated speakers and a wooden finish make the Ion Max a classy option.
£79 *getinthemix.com*

Vintage vibes
Steepletone's Chichester II model has tape and CD as well as vinyl capabilities.
£115.99 *amazon.co.uk*

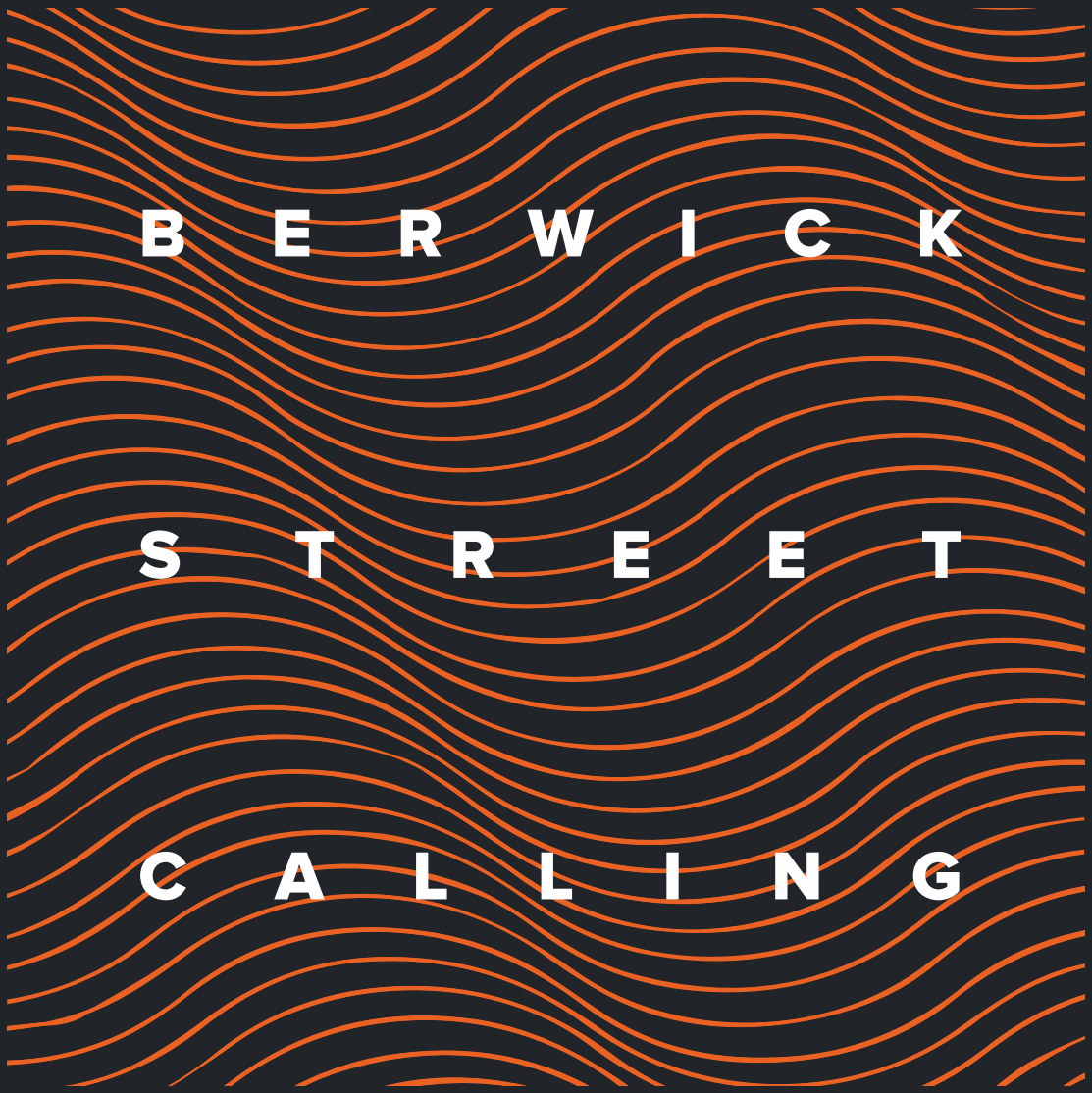
Tropical tunes
The palm print on this Crosley case makes this record player – which also features a diamond stylus needle – perfect for summer vinyl sessions.
£160 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Thoroughly modern
Philips' OTT2000 is based on a 1965 player, but with the heft and tech of a modern model.
£120 *amazon.co.uk*

Blue note
The Audio-Technica LP60 is a swanky Bluetooth player that connects to wireless speakers.
£178.57 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Find more on Record Store Day, go to NME.com

UNSIGNED ARTISTS - WIN YOUR SINGLE ON VINYL



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Katherine Ryan

OFF THE TV AND IN YOUR FACE

THIS WEEK

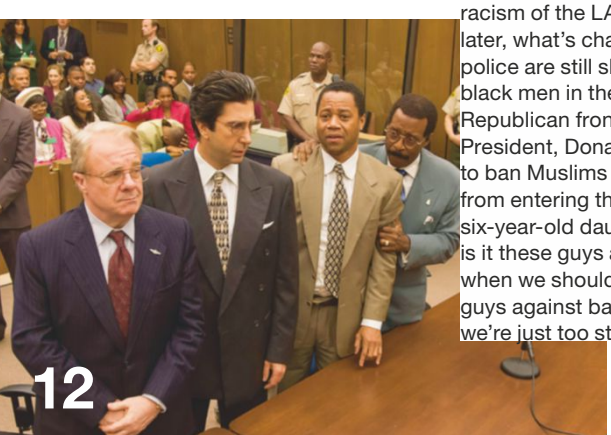
Not all men kill you if you leave them

I'M STILL WATCHING *The People V OJ Simpson* on BBC2. Of course I am. It's a masterpiece. I catch myself pondering how the series will end, then I remember that OJ definitely didn't murder Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman. Except that he clearly did. (If you're *NME*'s lawyer reading this and you're feeling very worried, you can relax because I've learned a lot about how to do perjury after watching this thing, so we'll be cool. I'm not sure it'll be relevant in the forthcoming libel trial against us, but I've also picked up a few tips on how to make it look like my gloves don't fit me).

Brown and Goldman were found stabbed to death just days before my 11th birthday. Simpson was a person of interest to police but failed to turn himself in, becoming the object of a low-speed pursuit in his white Bronco SUV. I'm not sure of the level of UK coverage, but it took over every TV channel back home. I was staying at my best friend's house that night, where I was allowed to eat sweets and watch scary films. Amanda's mother bought her books about sex and let her shave her legs. She let us do whatever we wanted when I was over there, so encouraged us to watch the Bronco chase with her as it unfolded in LA. 'He killed her, he f***ing killed her!' she screamed, either down the phone to a friend or directly at the TV screen. Amanda's mother was a beautiful granola eccentric feminist and a survivor of abuse, so she followed her intuition that this was domestic homicide.

When you're little, every experience writes on the canvas of who you are. Simpson was acquitted of all criminal charges in the hugely publicised trial that followed, but I was certain he'd gotten away with murder. A few years passed and a lovely girl I worked with was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend – a man I'd seen around often. I ran – actually ran – home to tell my mother after the police had been to inform us at the restaurant. 'Mom, it's the worst thing ever! They'll make a MOVIE about her!' I won't forget the pain on my mother's face when she sat down to explain that: 'No, Katherine. They won't. Because this happens every day.' I'm 32 years old now and I've only just accepted that not every man will kill you if you leave him.

Isolated incidents have lateral, lasting implications. Racism is what acquitted OJ Simpson. In the wake of the horrific beating of taxi driver Rodney King by the LAPD in 1991, Simpson's 'dream team' of defence lawyers (Johnnie Cochran, John Travolta and Ross from *Friends*) were able to cast doubt by masterfully exposing the systemic racism of the LAPD. Twenty years later, what's changed? American police are still shooting unarmed black men in the street and the Republican front-runner for President, Donald Trump, wants to ban Muslims and Mexicans from entering the country. As my six-year-old daughter put it: 'Why is it these guys against those guys when we should all just be good guys against bad guys?' Because we're just too stupid, honey.



PHOTOGRAPHY: BELLA HOWARD. STYLING: JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY. HAIR & MAKE-UP: FIONA EUSTACE. DRESS BY MIMI TRAN. BELT BY SAINT LAURENT. LEFT HAND RINGS BY DINNY HALL AND SWAROVSKI. RIGHT HAND RING BY MAIOCCI. PHOTO: BBC

"Every experience writes on the canvas of who you are"

And another thing...

I GET A KICK OUT OF Gwyneth Paltrow for a number of reasons. Not least because last year she admitted to steaming her vagina like it's broccoli. It's a sort of facial for your hoo-ha. She'd rather smoke crack than eat canned cheese and now she's proving conscious uncoupling maybe really does work. She just went to South America on holiday with Chris Martin and peacefully co-parented their two kids, vibing: 'We're still a family, but not a couple.' If I wasn't married to Chris Martin any more I'd hide under my bed forever with a tin of cheese. Thankfully, I AM still married to Chris Martin. By 'married' I mean 'dating'. And by 'Chris Martin' I mean no one. But my point is this: Gwyneth's a lady who knows what she's about. I don't think she's condescending or preachy – just hilarious. Be well and flourish, you mad vegan.

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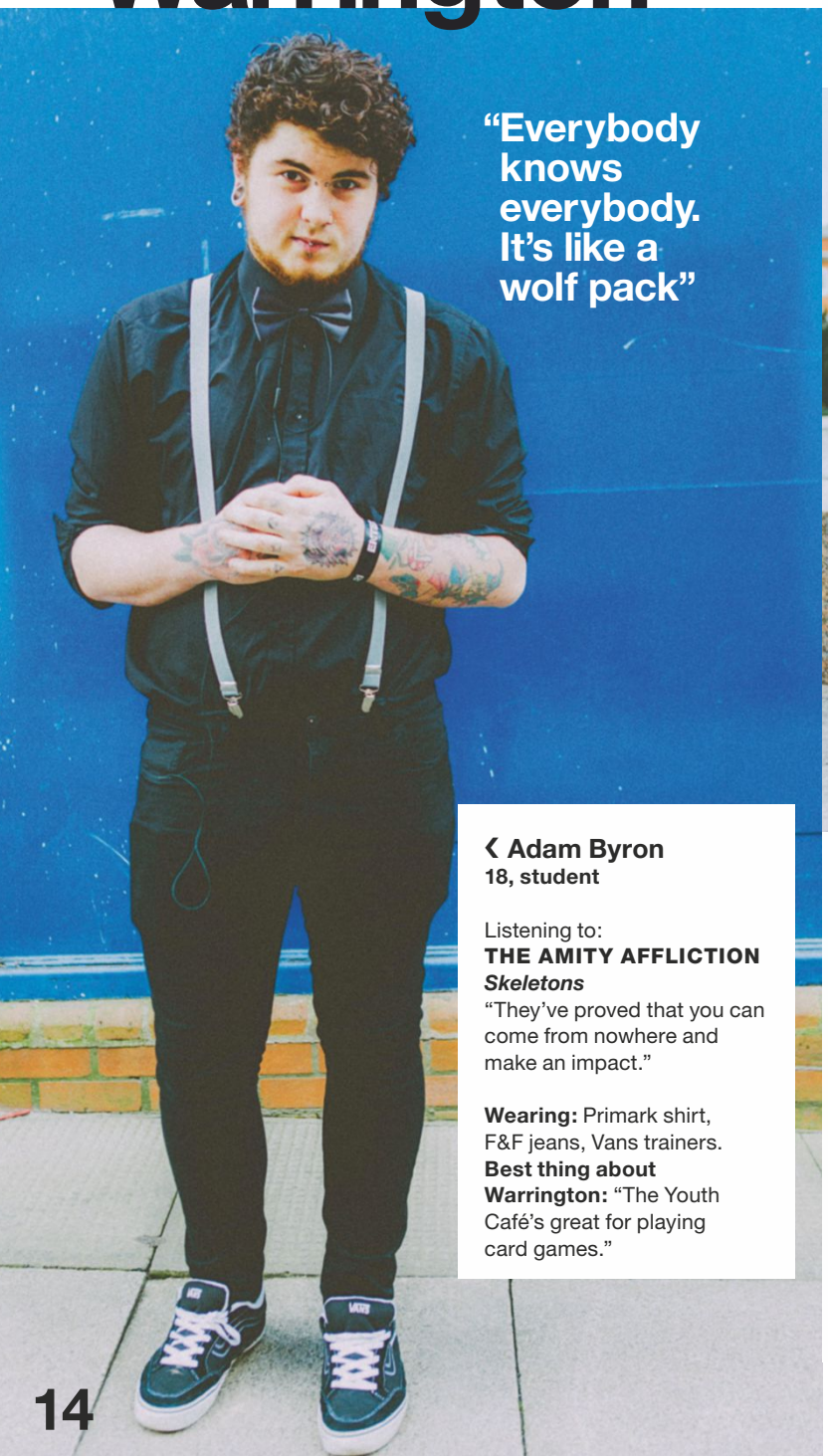
What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Warrington



"Everybody knows everybody. It's like a wolf pack"

❮ Adam Byron
18, student

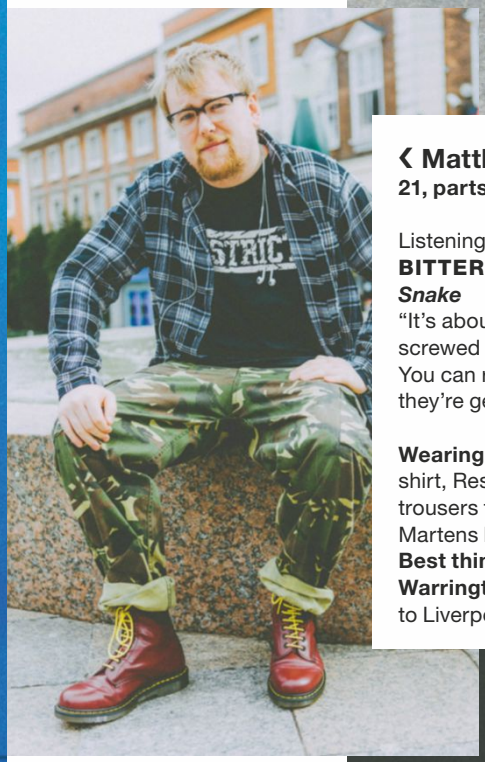
Listening to:
THE AMITY AFFLICTION
Skeletons
"They've proved that you can come from nowhere and make an impact."

Wearing: Primark shirt, F&F jeans, Vans trainers.
Best thing about Warrington: "The Youth Café's great for playing card games."

Laura Wright ❯
25, primary school worker

Listening to:
DEFTONES
Be Quiet And Drive (Far Away)
"It's peaceful, but heavy."

Wearing: Jacket from Rewind Festival, Dr Martens boots, bag from eBay.
Best thing about Warrington: "Everybody knows everybody. It's like a wolf pack."



❮ Matthew Weaver
21, parts advisor

Listening to:
BITTER YOUTH
Snake
"It's about someone who screwed them over big style. You can really feel what they're getting at."

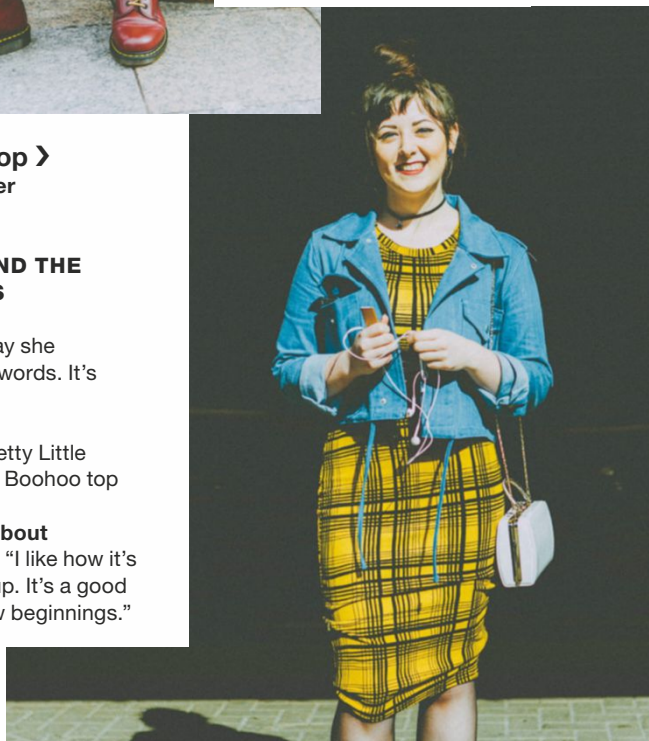
Wearing: George flannel shirt, Restrict T-shirt, combat trousers from eBay, Dr Martens boots.
Best thing about Warrington: "It's so close to Liverpool!"

PHOTOS: NIALL LEA

Tara Bishop ❯
20, bartender

Listening to:
MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS
Froot
"I love the way she pronounces words. It's a bit weird."

Wearing: Pretty Little Thing jacket, Boohoo top and skirt.
Best thing about Warrington: "I like how it's being done up. It's a good place for new beginnings."



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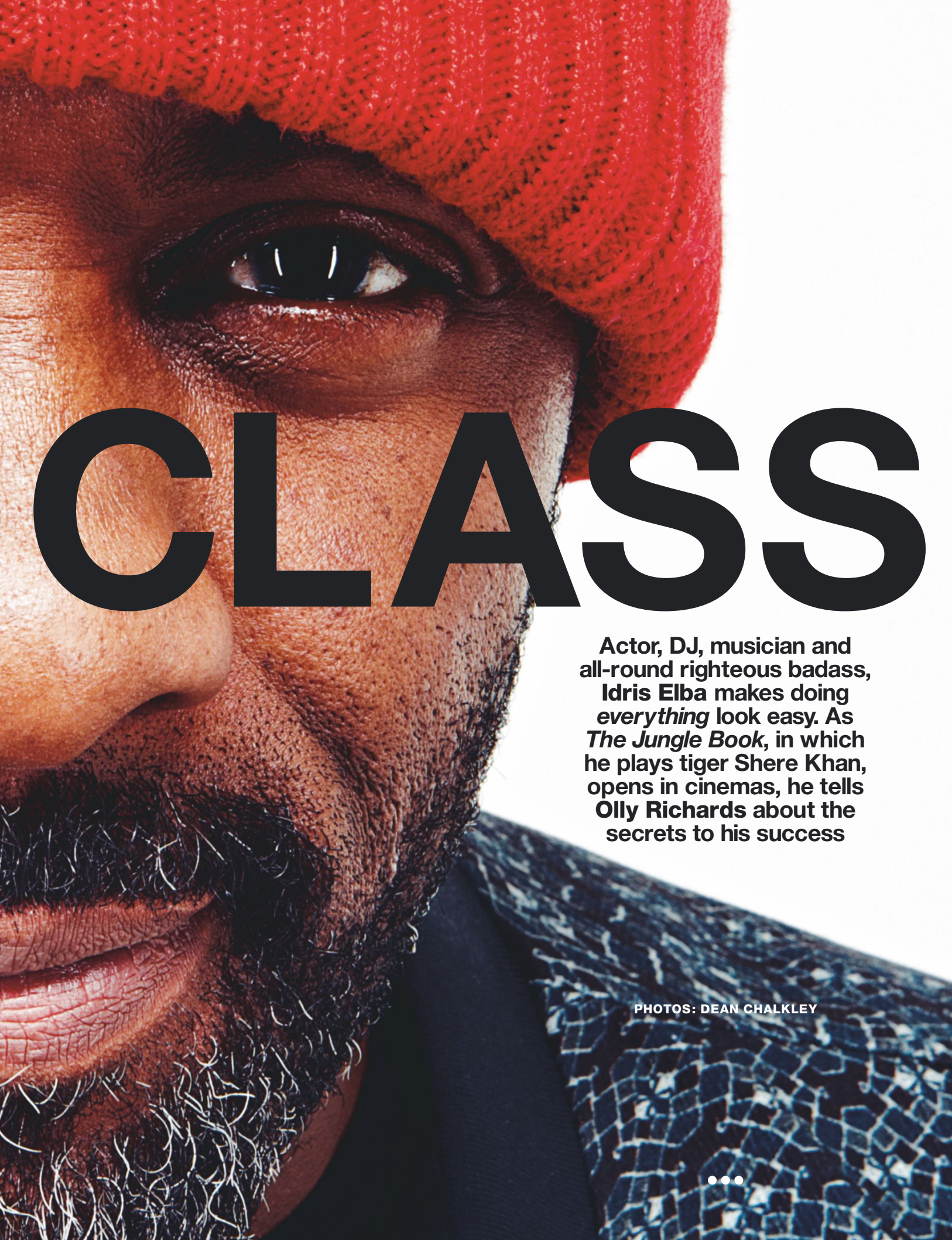
SHERE



CLASS

Actor, DJ, musician and all-round righteous badass, Idris Elba makes doing *everything* look easy. As *The Jungle Book*, in which he plays tiger Shere Khan, opens in cinemas, he tells Olly Richards about the secrets to his success

PHOTOS: DEAN CHALKLEY

•••

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Idris

Elba always knew he'd be here. Well, not *here*, in a conference room in a PR office in Mayfair, which is so absurdly large that it feels like we've arrived at a summit nobody else has bothered to attend. Here in his career. And *here* is on top.

Elba's current achievements read thus: he's the lead in a long-running detective TV show (*Luther*), the villain in one of this summer's biggest blockbusters (*Star Trek Beyond*), a regular in the Marvel cinematic universe (as Thor's associate Heimdall), a multi-award-winner, a DJ, an album producer, a fashion designer, a writer, a director. You'd have to write very small to get everything on his business card. To Elba, none of this is a surprise.

"I always knew I was going to do what I want," he says, in that rumbling voice that sounds like the beginnings of a landslide. "You don't ever imagine it will be like this," he continues with a sweep of the hand, presumably indicating his wonderful career and not the horrible conference room, "but I always imagined I was going to be working and successful."

In person, Elba is exactly what you'd imagine. Tall, broad, classically handsome, clearly very comfortable in his own skin. The man's got presence. He rarely breaks eye contact when speaking and talks only as much as he needs to. Confidence emanates from him, a confidence he says has always been there. Elba was born in east London 43 years ago. He developed an interest in drama early, even though at first he thought it was ridiculous. "You go to a boys' school," he says. "You're 14, drama is a bit like, 'What?!' But it's a release, especially for boys… [We had this] beautiful drama teacher who used her influence and beauty to make us think outside the box and go for it. I remember how impactful that was. I remember coming out of that class and thinking, 'F**king hell, man' and being given a slightly different confidence that I then put into other things."

Mostly, though, he applied it to acting, always his primary trade. Despite constant work, mostly on stage or TV, his major success came relatively late. He got his breakthrough role as Russell 'Stringer' Bell in *The Wire* when he was 30. His title role in *Luther*, perhaps his signature, came in 2010 and it's only very recently that he's received top billing in films, most notably last year's *Beasts Of No Nation*, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA and a Golden Globe. What made him believe that he was going to make it, even when the parts were small? "I would say I'm fearless," he says. "I'm not worried about failing. A lot of people are, because it's embarrassing to fail, isn't it? I'm not really worried about that. I've failed at a *bunch* of stuff. It just makes me get up and go back in." He illustrates his point with a memory from filming *Luther*. "I think you have to re-programme your head a bit. I can't stand heights, but in *Luther* it seemed like every episode they wanted to put me on the roof," he laughs. "I'd be standing there going, 'Jesus Christ, what am I doing?' But now I don't – well, I don't love heights, but I don't have the same anxiety about it. That makes me a better actor. When the director says, 'Do you want to take a step forward?' I go, 'Fine. Bosh.' On camera that makes me look fearless, but I had to really re-programme how I dealt with fear. I think everyone can do that."

Idris's speech to Parliament

The key points of his address on diversity

1 British TV doesn't represent the real world
"I did night shifts at Ford Dagenham. It turned out to have more opportunity and more diversity than the TV industry."

2 It's riddled with stereotypes
"Are black people often playing criminals? Are women always playing the love interest? Are gay people stereotyped? Are disabled people hardly ever seen?"

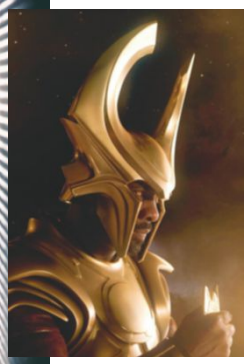
3 There's a lack of opportunities
"I could only play so many 'gang leaders'. There wasn't enough imagination in the industry for me to be seen as a lead."

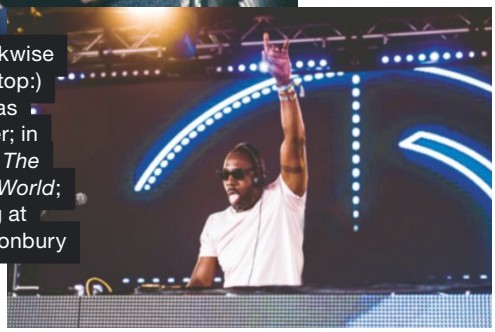
4 The whole system needs to change
"Too many of our creative decision-makers share the same background."

5 Things are much better in America
"To champion diversity is to champion the American dream… I want that British dream."

HE WONDERS why more people don't spread their talents wider. "In this country, being a jack of all trades is kind of frowned upon. That's fair enough. It's important to be focused. If you're focused at being a painter then do that, but I think it's also fair that if you want to drive cars as well as be a painter then you should do that… It's in trying things that you expand and learn. I'm intrigued by people who make things happen and think outside the box. Richard Branson and his whole empire. That's fascinating that he found a cohesive way to make it all work. In England we're usually like, 'Turn it in, you're doing too much,' but he was a mentor, in a sense, for my ambition. I think somehow that's what's happening to me. I've got all these strings to my bow. I'm not Virgin or anything but when I speak to kids, particularly boys of a certain age, they say, 'You're an inspiration.' I don't even know if they've seen my films, but they see I'm doing something."

If there's one thing Elba is still wary of, it's in that last sentence. He's still making his peace with the personal attention that comes with reaching this level and being known as much for who he is as what he does. You don't make it to the point of toplining TV shows and movies without the world taking an interest in you personally. There are several points in our conversation when he becomes testy. The questions aren't about his private life or his family but about subjects on which he knows his responses will be widely quoted. And no, we didn't mention Bond. He's taken the position of refusing to talk about whether he wants to be the next 007, which is entirely fair given he's never had a meeting about it and the part is still technically Daniel Craig's. The subject that makes him turn inward is the speech he gave to Parliament on January 19 about diversity in TV, calling on those in power to do more to ensure that the faces on TV and the stories told are more representative of the people watching them. He wasn't specifically talking about black actors, but all people of colour, different sexual orientations, disabilities, gender identities. Basically just adding a few more shades to the kaleidoscope besides straight, white and middle-class. It was an important, powerful speech





(Clockwise from top:) Elba as Luther; in *Thor: The Dark World*; DJing at Glastonbury

PHOTOS: DEAN CHALKLEY, BBC, REX FEATURES, JORDAN HUGHES

that got the attention he'd hoped, so what developments has he seen since? His answers become short and careful. He sounds like a politician.

"Everything starts with dialogue, talking about it and understanding. I think my speech definitely fuelled ongoing debate," he says. "Specifically in my industry, the powers that be have to all talk to each other and have a standard move forward. I think I achieved that at least, to get the people in my industry to speak to each other." Are there any specific things that have happened as a result of the speech, that he's aware of? "I know for a fact that at the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV, literally the next day there was a summit of all the creative heads about diversity." There is a moment in the speech where he talks about how, early in his career, he was only "asked to read the 'black male' character". He's moved his career beyond that – he's just been cast as the second lead in the big-budget adaptation of Stephen King's *The Dark Tower*, alongside Matthew McConaughey, in a role that in the book is white – so when and how did he make that change happen? He looks away. "I don't want to talk about that. I know it just gets misquoted and becomes a headline." It's not an unreasonable response. He's right – his opinions on these things do make headlines – but in the context of what he's trying to do for others, his own experiences feel important.

"I'm not good at being a celebrity"

WE'RE MEETING today because he's working with the soft drink Purdey's on a campaign called Thrive On, which launches on April 27. It aims to encourage young people to follow their dreams, to try things they might not think they can do. It's fitting: Elba's success has made him not just a celebrity but a role model. The former is what he struggles with. "I'm still adjusting to celebrity, to be honest," he says, running a hand over his head. "You can't imagine what it's like until you get there and I'm still there now. I like the work; that's what I like. The celebrity aspect is something else entirely." But does he accept it as part of the price of getting the best parts? "To a degree, yes. But I'm good at being an actor, I'm not necessarily good at being a celebrity. I don't get a job and then think I need to be a good celebrity that's in *Star Trek*."

With everything he's already achieved, you have to wonder what's left for Elba to try. He has five films coming out between now and the end of summer. There's *Star Trek Beyond*, on which he's sworn to secrecy, the thriller *Bastille Day* and three projects that seem very un-Elba, in that they're designed for children: animations *Zootropolis* (out now) and *Finding Nemo* sequel *Finding Dory*, and then *The Jungle Book* (he voices the tiger Shere Khan – read our review on page 32). "I wanted to make some things my kids could see," he says, grinning. "They can't watch the rest."

In summer he'll start work on *The Dark Tower*, his biggest project to date. It's a fantasy Western, Sergio Leone meets JRR Tolkien, with shootouts and magic. "That's going to be a long, technical shoot," he says. "I hadn't read any of the books but I like Stephen King and the director [relative newcomer Nikolaj Arcel]." There are eight books in the series, meaning if the first is a hit it's a role Elba will be playing for years. "I like franchises," he says. "Franchises are long-term work. I like to take a character and do as much work [with them] as I can – Luther, the Marvel character… There are actors who prefer to jump from one to the next, but I like the idea of keeping a character going." Surprisingly, the other thing he wants to try is a musical on stage. "I don't know if I've got the chops to sing, but I'd like to explore it." Like he said: fearless.

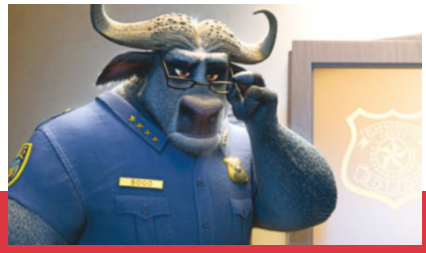
All this, though, is only the second stage in the Grand Elba Plan. As you'd imagine, he's staked out his final act. "All these things I do are toward at some point less about making a living and more about influencing the next generation," he says. "When I'm acting less and not as popular, I think I could still be a beacon for another generation." Thing is, he kind of still is, even if he's still getting used to all that comes with that.

NME

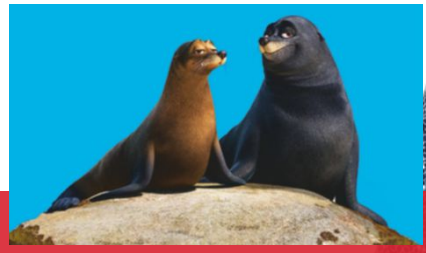
Thrive On is a partnership between Idris Elba and Purdey's, a platform designed to enable and inspire people, giving them the courage to follow their own path. Visit facebook.com/Purdeys #THRIVEON

Drawn to it

Meet Idris's new line in animated characters



CHIEF BOGO *Zootropolis*
What is he? A Cape buffalo and chief of Zootropolis police
Why Elba? He's a world-weary investigator who somehow still believes people can be good. Luther with hooves.



FLUKE *Finding Dory*
What is he? A sea lion with an East End accent. Estuary English, perhaps.
Why Elba? Because director Andrew Stanton wanted a reunion of *The Wire* – Fluke's pal is voiced by Dominic West.

SHERE KHAN *The Jungle Book*
What is he? A very bad tiger who wants to eat the story's central character Mowgli.
Why Elba? Have you heard his voice? If tigers could form words they would definitely have the same gravelly bass.

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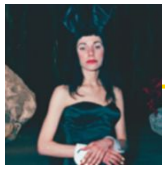
THE EVOLUTION OF AN ICON

Trying to pigeonhole PJ Harvey is impossible. With haunting new album 'The Hope Six Demolition Project' out this week, Leonie Cooper traces her brilliant career

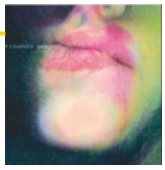
THE TEENAGE SAX GOD

Polly Jean Harvey grew up on a farm in Dorset, where she picked up the saxophone and played with local bands such as Boulogne. In 1988 she joined experimental Bristol-based group Automatic Dlamini, featuring songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John Parish, who became her main collaborator.
In her own words: "We were terrible! But the music was beautiful." *NME*, January 1995



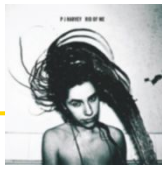
THE ART SCHOOL DROPOUT

PJ had planned to study sculpture at Central Saint Martins College, but an increasing obsession with music led to her recording her debut album instead. The result – the primal, bluesy punk of 1992's 'Dry' – was full of starkly sexual imagery and jagged passion.
In her own words: "It's not just extremes of loud and quiet. As a writer, I want extremes in the lyrics as well." *NME*, April 1992



THE DIFFICULT GRUNGE YEARS

The raw, grunge-inflected 'Rid Of Me' followed in 1993. *NME* visited Harvey on her family farm to discuss her reported breakdown.
In her own words: "I feed chickens. And then there's this glamorous pop star bit – or so people think." *NME*, April 1993



THE BREAKTHROUGH

In 1995, 'To Bring You My Love' brought PJ to the masses. "It's not trying to hammer you into the ground," said *NME*'s review. "It smothers you gently."
In her own words: "I'm not driving people away now. I'm inviting them in." *NME*, January 1995

THE ICONIC PERFORMANCE

PJ stomping onto the Pyramid Stage in June 1995 in a hot pink catsuit is one of Glastonbury's most memorable moments. Wearing make-up as warpaint, she ushered in a theatrical aesthetic, celebrating fearsomeness and subverting the conventions of beauty.
In her own words: "People think I'm some kind of axe-wielding bitch cow from hell… I think that's the biggest joke of all." *NME*, July 1995

POLLY DOWN THE DISCO

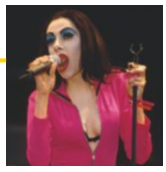
Bringing in the influence of Tricky and Aphex Twin, Harvey's multi-textured fourth album 'Is This Desire?' pushed her towards electronica, although she was yet to fully embrace the world of dance music. "I haven't managed to make it to a rave yet," she explained. "I don't think I can stay up that long."
In 1998 she also branched out into acting, playing a Playboy bunny in the short film *A Bunny Girl's Tale*.
In her own words: "I feel very happy at the moment. I have done for quite some time." *NME*, October 1998

THE NEW YORKER

The glossy 'Stories From The City, Stories From The Sea' in 2000 was a bohemian waltz through the underbelly of New York City and featured Radiohead's Thom Yorke.
In her own words: "I felt like I was covering the same territory. I needed a big shake-up." *NME*, October 2000

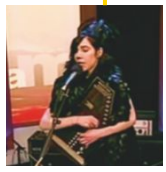
THE MERCURY WIN

PJ Harvey won her first Mercury Prize on September 11, 2001, a victory overshadowed by the tragedy of 9/11. PJ was in the US, and gave her acceptance speech from her hotel in Washington D.C.
In her own words: "This whole city is in shock, myself and my band are all partly involved in that. We can see the Pentagon… It's just been a very surreal day." *NME*, September 2001



THE BALLADEER

Another about-turn came with 2007's 'White Chalk', an album of piano ballads. Harvey also took to wearing white cotton Victorian gowns during gigs.
In her own words: "The world doesn't need any more art that's just alright. It only needs mind-blowing, life-changing stuff." *The Guardian*, September 2007

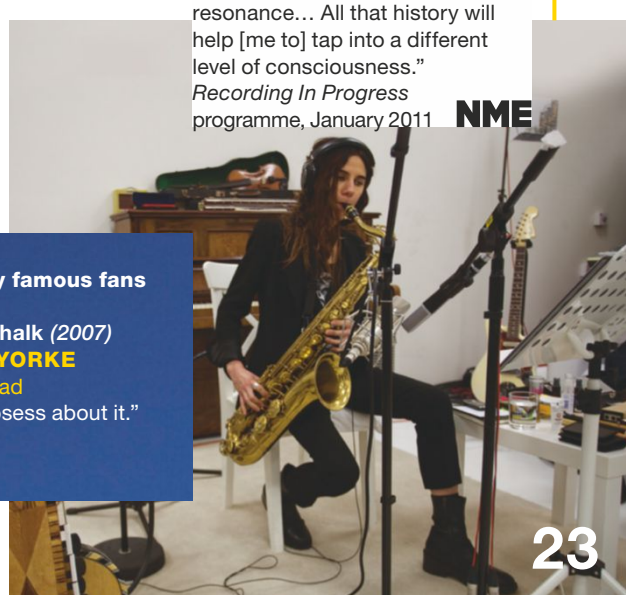


THE WAR POET

Appearing on *The Andrew Marr Show* in 2010, PJ debuted the lyrically brutal 'Let England Shake' – inspired by first-hand accounts from soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq – in front of the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown. In 2011 she released the album of the same name, framing herself as a modern-day war poet and winning a second Mercury Prize.
In her own words: "If you're going to talk about giant subject matter, you've got to do it well and I didn't think I had the skill as a writer to do that up until this point." *NME*, September 2011

THE LIVING EXHIBIT

Last year, Harvey recorded new album 'The Hope Six Demolition Project' before an audience at London's Somerset House. For £15, fans could gawp at PJ and her collaborators through one-way glass as they wrote lyrics, recorded, experimented and drank tea.
In her own words: "Somerset House feels right because of its resonance… All that history will help [me to] tap into a different level of consciousness." *Recording In Progress* programme, January 2011



PHOTOS: SEAMUS MURPHY, BFI, GETTY IMAGES

The best of PJ Harvey **Tracks, albums and rarities recommended by famous fans**

Rid Of Me *(1993)*
COURTNEY LOVE
"It influenced me deeper than 'Nevermind', even though I lived with the person who wrote that." (*The Metro*)

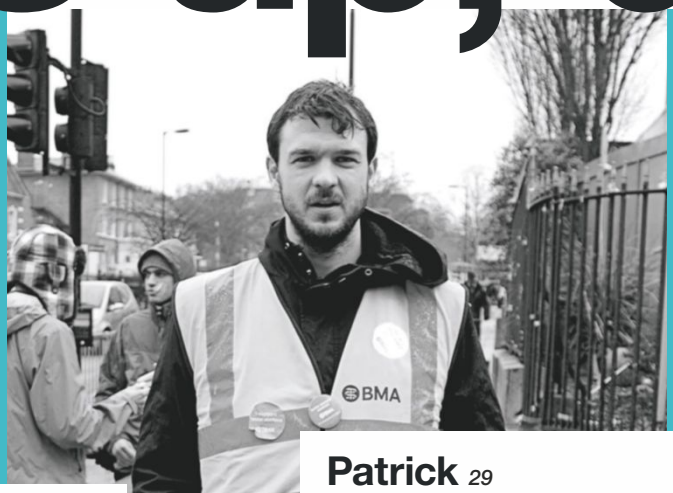
4-Track Demos *(1993)*
ALISON MOSSHART
The Kills
"I didn't really know how to make music… PJ Harvey made it all seem possible." (*The Guardian*)

To Bring You My Love *(1995)*
SHIRLEY MANSON
Garbage
"I am incredibly jealous of her. I think she's a genius." (*The Skinny*)

White Chalk *(2007)*
THOM YORKE
Radiohead
"I still obsess about it." (*Dazed*)

What's up, do

Last week, junior doctors across England held a fourth strike in protest at government proposals for changes in pay, hours and working conditions, which, the medical profession warns, will destroy the NHS. But what exactly are they fighting for? And how will it affect you? Sam Moore goes behind the picket line at King's College Hospital, London, to find out



Dale *29*

WORKS IN A&E AT WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL, LONDON

Why are you here?
Because of the Conservative government's imposition of a contract, which we believe is unsafe and unfair.

What happens if you lose?
On a macro scale, I don't believe the NHS will be able to sustain the cuts. They're coming for the junior doctors now, it'll be the consultants next, and they're already removing some funding for nurses' training. I genuinely believe they want to break the NHS up, so if we don't succeed the NHS will be sold off to private companies.

And for you personally?
I'm not jumping ship just yet. But I have plenty of doctor friends who are leaving the NHS and going to work in Australia, where they treat their staff well, pay them fairly and the general quality of life is much better.

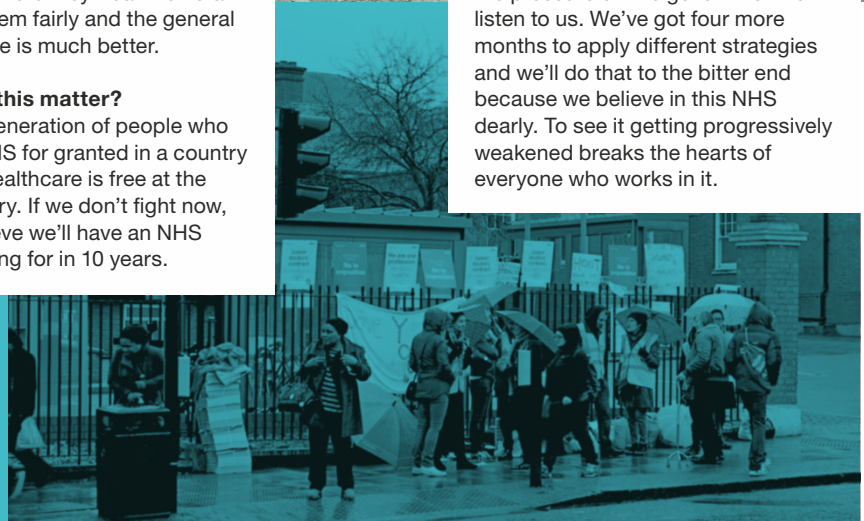
Why does this matter?
There's a generation of people who take the NHS for granted in a country where all healthcare is free at the point of entry. If we don't fight now, I don't believe we'll have an NHS worth fighting for in 10 years.

Patrick *29*

WORKS IN A&E AT KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Why are you here?
To make a stand against the Department of Health and the government, represented by [health secretary] Jeremy Hunt, David Cameron and the Tories. Their approach to dealing with the junior contract has been completely unacceptable and unfair. Imposing a strike on any group of workers is a dangerous, futile and ineffective means of enacting change. The effect it's having on morale is appalling.

Why does this matter?
What's the alternative: do nothing? I'm not at work and I'm not getting paid today. I'm not going to be at home getting on top of life; I'm going to be out here taking a stand. We have a great opportunity at the end of April [all-out stoppages are planned for the 26th and 27th] to make a stand. It's going to crank up the pressure on the government to listen to us. We've got four more months to apply different strategies and we'll do that to the bitter end because we believe in this NHS dearly. To see it getting progressively weakened breaks the hearts of everyone who works in it.



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Claire *30*

JUNIOR DOCTOR IN PSYCHIATRY, MAUDSLEY HOSPITAL, LONDON

What happens if you lose?
The NHS as it is now won't exist. It would be a disaster for recruitment and morale. If you don't have the doctors, who's working for the patients? Also, documents released this week have put in writing that this contract discriminates against women. So as a female doctor, I don't believe this contract should be going through.

Will these strikes make a difference?
I wouldn't be here otherwise. This is so important. We have to keep going and we have to stay strong.

Are you getting more support or criticism for what you're doing?
The public are mostly very supportive and we feel we're getting the message out there. The public are very supportive of the NHS, so they're behind our campaign.

Sachin *30*

JUNIOR DOCTOR AT MAUDSLEY TRUST, LONDON

What happens if you win?
We go back to the drawing board with negotiations. I can't predict the finalised contract, but the BMA would negotiate for a contract that's more beneficial for junior doctors and the public. We would save the NHS from what is doomed to happen if this contract goes through.

What happens if you lose?
We lose vital safeguards that keep us from being worked for multiple long shifts. It would reduce our pay for unsocial hours and it would increase the amount of time that 'social' hours exist for. It all adds up to us being overworked and patients being seen by doctors who are overworked. We want to avoid patients having a service that's five days stretched out over seven days.

Why does this strike matter?
The British public have told us that they care about having an NHS and free healthcare at the point of delivery. We're going to lose that if these proposals go through because we're going to lose doctors. We're looking at the beginning of the destruction of the NHS.

Hannah *25*

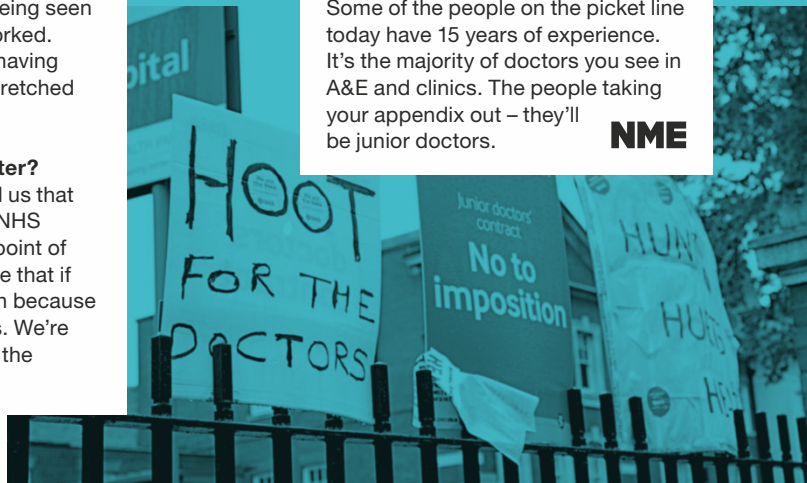
JUNIOR DOCTOR AT KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Why are you here?
This is my career and hopefully I'll be in it for the next 30-40 years. I've got an interest in this as a doctor, but also from my patients' point of view. The contract the government is trying to impose on us is trying to stretch five days' worth of funds for services and staff over seven days, making non-emergency surgeries like hip operations or clinics available on Saturdays and Sundays. Its reasoning is that somehow this will reduce weekend mortality figures and make weekends safer, but we believe it'll do the opposite.

Why does this matter?
We all use the NHS. It's a huge, monumental achievement that we need to defend. This change will weaken it and enable further negative changes against nurses and other healthcare professionals. It's the start of what could be the destruction of a national treasure.

What don't people realise about junior doctors that you wish they did?
How much of the workforce junior doctors are. It goes all the way from me being a first year to just before you become a consultant or GP. Some of the people on the picket line today have 15 years of experience. It's the majority of doctors you see in A&E and clinics. The people taking your appendix out – they'll be junior doctors.

NME



PHOTOS: PAUL BUGLER

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You might be surprised to know that we make Jack Daniel's in a dry county. When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, folks in Moore County decided to stick with it for a while… and a while has lasted right up to the present day. So should you decide to visit us at some point, you'll find any number of Jack Daniel's-themed items to take to your friends back home. You just won't be able to buy them any of Mr. Jack's namesake whiskey. Please be aware, though, that while you can't buy a bottle of Old No. 7 here in Lynchburg, there is absolutely no law against enjoying some. In fact, with our neighbors being as friendly and welcoming as they are, it's almost a guarantee that you will.

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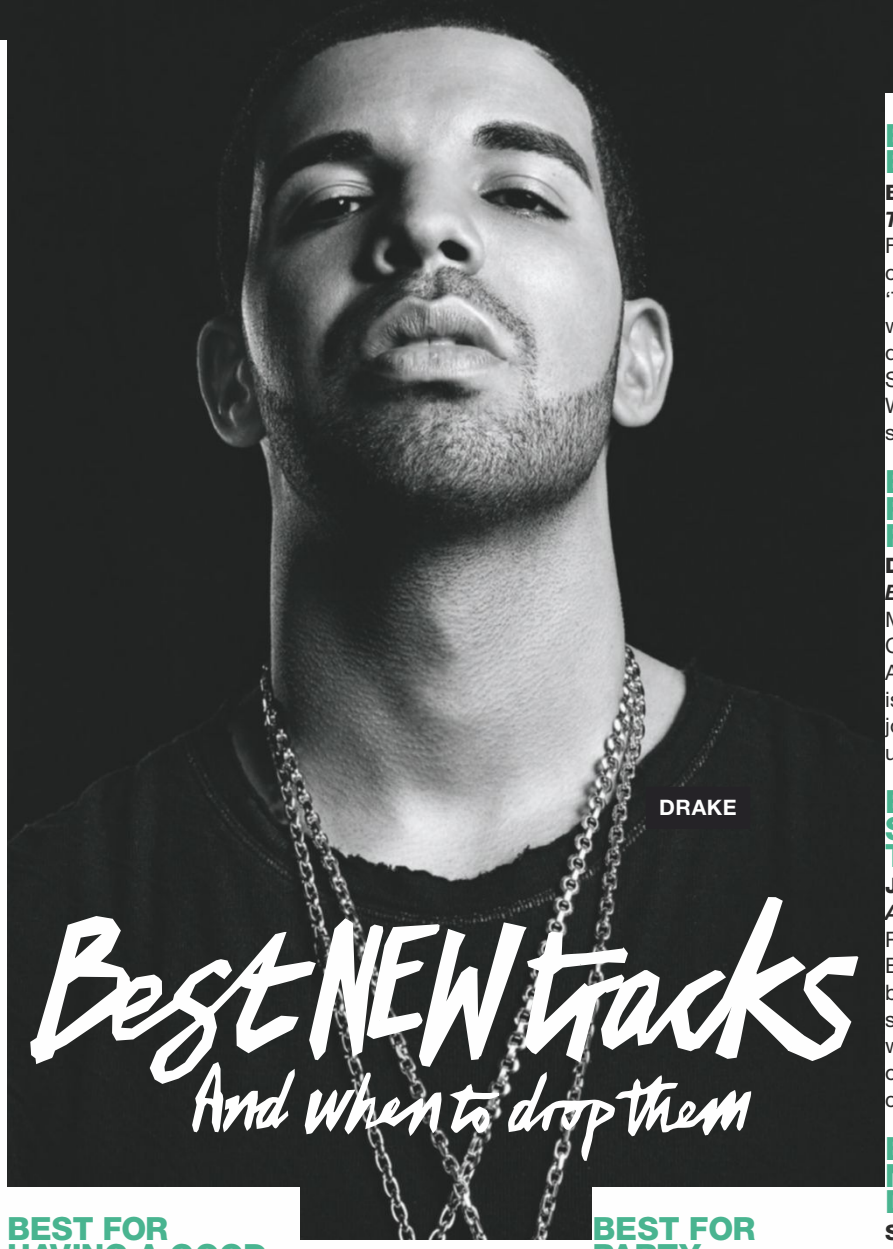
for the facts **drinkaware.co.uk**

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV, GAMES AND MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES


DRAKE

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR HANGING OUT
DRAKE
Pop Style
Drake brings in the big guns – Kanye West and Jay Z – to guest on this latest track from his eagerly anticipated new album.

BEST FOR DANCE CONTESTS
JESSY LANZA
VV Violence
Hyperdub-signed Lanza pitches skittering electronica against bubblegum pop in this fast-paced future disco anthem.

PARQUET COURTS

BEST FOR BEING DUMPED
PARQUET COURTS
Human Performance
The NYC rockers try their hand at doo-wop-flavoured balladry, mixing it up the only way they know how – with plenty of gritty, DIY punk attitude.

BEST FOR POLITICAL PROTEST
LETLIVE
Good Mourning, America
LA metalcore types Letlive meld incisive protest politics with caustic guitars. This is what raging against the machine sounds like in 2016.

BEST FOR HAVING A GOOD CLEAN-UP
MIA
Rewear It
A collaboration with H&M, this comes with a suitably fantastic video (standard MIA fare these days) and a fiery message in support of World Recycle Week.

BEST FOR A RAP SEANCE
PHIFE DAWG AND J DILLA
Nutshell
The late Tribe Called Quest rapper's flow flies for one last time on this track from beyond the grave.

BEST FOR PARTY STARTING
A$AP FERG
Hungry Ham
Featuring beats from Skrillex and vocals from Crystal Caines, the latest offering from Ferg's second album is a tightly wound club banger.

BEST FOR EPIC JOGGING
BASTILLE
The Currents
Frontman Dan Smith called the soaring 'The Currents' "a bit weird" when his band debuted it at the recent Snowbombing Festival. We just think it's straight-up anthemic.

BEST FOR ROWDY RAVING
DEADMAU5
Bad At Titles
Made alongside Canadian proudcer Attlas, *Bad At Titles* is a nine-minute-long journey into the techno underground. Intense.

BEST STUDYING THE CLASSICS
JORJA SMITH
A Prince
R&B gets a distinctly British twist with Walsall-born singer Smith's smoky new single, which samples the work of 17th-century baroque composer Henry Purcell.

BEST FOR NASHVILLE DREAMING
STURGILL SIMPSON
In Bloom
The man who's making country music cool again covers the Nirvana tune, bringing some Johnny Cash vibes to a stone-cold classic.

For more new music, go to NME.com

PHOTO: DAN MARTENSEN

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

All Dilla no filler

The late, great hip-hop producer's shelved 2002 album is a respectable cap on a great body of work

J DILLA
The Diary
★★★★☆
FUNKY LEGENDARY LOST

IF JAMES DEWITT Yancey has been all but canonised by a certain corner of hip hop fandom, it's easy to see why. In part it's because the Detroit-born rapper and beat-maker died in tragic circumstances in 2006: aged 32, after having being diagnosed with the auto-immune disease lupus and rare blood disease TTP. But in larger part, it's because of the music he produced – a scuffed-up, sample-based hip hop that warped classic soul into something melodic, psychedelic and deeply funky. Yancey was hardly a household name, but his influence has been profound. "We think, 'If Dilla was alive, would he like this?'" said Kanye West in 2014. "I have to work on behalf of Dilla."

'The Diary' was intended to be Dilla's arrival as a major-label MC. After a period producing for the likes of The Pharcyde, De La Soul and Janet Jackson, he signed to MCA and began work on a vocal album. But the album was shelved around 2002 – major-label bullsh*t, the usual – and instead Dilla changed tack, moving to LA and following a more underground path.

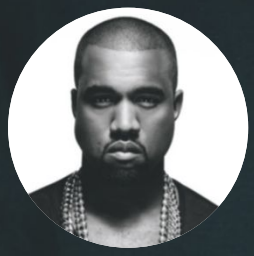
Completed by representatives of Yancey's estate, 'The Diary' is a glimpse of the Dilla we might have known: not the revered producer, but a champion MC leading an album packed with guest productions and cameos. Some tracks have been released – 'Trucks', a pimped-out remodel of Gary Numan's 'Cars', and Dilla's 2001 single 'F*ck The Police', a sweary middle finger to the cops powered by fluttering flutes and a sturdy funky drummer backbeat. Much, though, is new. 'Gangsta Boogie' is a squirming G-funk jam of the kind that's pretty much obligated to feature a Snoop Dogg verse (it does, too), while 'The Ex' is a Pete Rock-produced soul number featuring Bilal that'll charm anyone currently bumping Kendrick or D'Angelo.

Certainly, 'The Diary' does give the lie to a certain view of Dilla: the backroom guy making downbeat instrumental hip hop. On 'Fight Club', he sounds pugilistic, spitting war rhymes over a tense kick drum. Nothing here totally confounds the suspicion that Yancey was a brilliant producer, but merely an able rapper. Still, as a respectable cap on a great body of work, 'The Diary' will do nicely.

Louis Pattison

J Dilla, who died in 2006

FAMOUS FAN



KANYE WEST
"We gotta make music and think, 'If Dilla was alive, would he like this?' I have to work on behalf of Dilla."

Safe, but awesome

Who needs innovation when you've got art, aggression, intelligence and melody?

DEFTONES
Gore
★★★★☆
METAL LEGENDS TURN-IT-UP

HOW DOES AN ACT get tagged 'the metal Radiohead'? Innovate and challenge at every turn? Inspire a generation with songs that appear to have been given their titles by a cat walking across a caps-locked keyboard? Ditch the tunes?

Besides the last – and tunes are still something of an eccentricity in some metal circles – Sacramento's Deftones live up to the billing. Over 20 years and eight albums, Chino Moreno and his fellow Deftones have forged new paths in experimental hardcore, embracing trip hop, electronica, gothic and dream pop.

The question is: how much innovation can metal take? This is a genre whose fundamental tenets of brutal riffs, animalistic wailing and chunder-singing have been writ in stone for nigh on 45 years. With 'Gore', Deftones seem to have reached the outer borders of the form and stopped pushing – bassist Sergio Vega claims that their major attempt at sonic evolution this time around was him playing a six-string bass. Hardly a rulebook bonfire.

There are touches of heady atmospherics on the entrancing 'Hearts/Wires' and 'Prayers/Triangles', and the otherwise pleasant trip of 'Acid Hologram' features the Babadook grunting the middle eight. But on the whole, 'Gore' finds Deftones sticking to the relatively safe ground of mathsy metal full of supernatural imagery and obtuse, howl-veiled anti-establishment rhetoric.

It's the sort of loosely structured experimentalism they're masters of and Moreno is in his element: 'Doomed User', 'Pittura Infamante' and 'Geometric Headdress' find him exploring dislocated vocal lines like a metal Morrissey, singing along to the riffs his band *aren't* playing. There are also screaming episodes in the title track where you're surprised no one took him down with a tranquiliser gun as he tried to chew his way out through the studio walls.

Largely flirting with conformity from a distance, 'Gore' really comes into its own in the latter half, when Deftones open the silo doors on their buried missiles of epic melody. 'Xenon' has Moreno singing about "*lions at the gate*" with an arena-rock sensibility; '(L)MIRL' sounds like a U2 canyon ballad crossed with something depressing by The Cure; and the plush 'Phantom Bride' features Alice In Chains' Jerry Cantrell giving it his best widdling-into-the-wind-machine solo.

Art, aggression, intelligence and melody – they might have final found their limits, but Deftones continue to refine.
Mark Beaumont

FOR FANS OF

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

THE SMITHS

(L-r:) Chino Moreno, Abe Cunningham, Sergio Vega, Stephen Carpenter and Frank Delgado

PHOTOS: FRANK MADDOCKS, PA, REX

VISIT

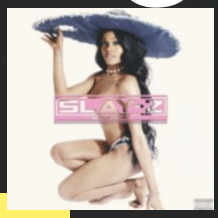
LIST FOR LIFE.NET

A new site for inspirational stories and career advice to achieve your #goals

♥ WHAT YOU DO

Slaying it

A mix of electro, R&B, rap and EDM that features Rick Ross, a song rejected by Rihanna and a trio of club bangers



AZEALIA BANKS

Slay-Z

★★★★☆

MIXTAPE ATTITUDE BANGERS

IF AZEALIA BANKS FANS HAVE learned anything by now, it's never to second-guess her. The Harlem rapper finally released her debut album 'Broke With Expensive Taste' in November 2014 after a series of painful delays had steadily cooled the once-feverish anticipation, but this follow-up mixtape dropped seemingly without warning at the end of last month. On Twitter, Banks explained she was sharing a free download link to her new music because "someone started leaking 'Slay-Z' and I wanted it to come from my hand".

Capricious? Maybe, but it's also pretty generous because 'Slay-Z' is a blast. What sets Banks apart from her peers is her ability to bounce effortlessly between genres. The mixtape begins with a super-catchy electro jam called 'Riot' which features vocals from R&B duo Nina Sky (remember their 2004 hit 'Move Ya Body'?) before segueing into the swaggering rap of 'Skylar Diggins' and 'Big Talk'. The latter teams Banks with hip hop bigwig Rick Ross and sees her boast about a *"pussy wetter than the Great Lakes"*.

Then comes the skittering 'Can't Do It Like Me', a brag track Banks says was originally intended for Rihanna, and a trio of club bangers that remind us Banks can sing as well as rap. As she belts out 'Used To Being Alone', a sleek repurposing of Tony Igy's dance instrumental 'Astronomia', she seems to draw from her pre-rap years studying musical theatre at New York's LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts.

'The Big Big Beat' is even better, a hip house track with a bassline that recalls Alex Party's 90s hit 'Don't Give Me Your Life', while the gleefully cheesy EDM of 'Queen Of Clubs' sees Banks channel J-Lo as she raps: *"So tell the f**kin' DJ to play my favourite song!"* Banks' bolshy attitude dominates here – *"I like unrest, understand?/ I like conflict and command,"* she raps on 'Riot' – but the hints of vulnerability are more intriguing. 'Slay-Z' concludes with 'Along The Coast', a woozy groove produced by Canadian rising star Kaytranada on which Banks shows a softer, more emotional side. It feels like a surprisingly subdued way to end this mixtape, but then again, we should know by now not to second-guess Azealia Banks.

Nick Levine

STRANGE BUT TRUE

On May 12 2013, Azealia wrote on Twitter: "Lol, can someone shoot a missile into the @NME building?" We have no idea why.

Also out this week

XIU XIU
Plays The Music Of Twin Peaks
★★★☆☆

Jamie Stewart's noise-loving Californians present an uncompromising take on the score for David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*. Play it at a dinner party if you want everyone to leave.

JOHN CARPENTER
Lost Themes II
★★★★☆

The director behind *Halloween* fills his second album for New York label Sacred Bones with chilling collages of synths and beats. Frightening, but great.

SUUNS
Hold/Still
★★★☆☆

The Montreal quartet's third album revels in awkwardness. Its heartfelt lyrics, needly guitars and crashing percussion make for a niggly but enjoyable ride.

Read reviews of many more albums on NME.com

(L-r:) Mowgli (Neel Sethi) and Baloo (voiced by Bill Murray)

The mighty jungle

Bill Murray as Baloo – amazing. Scarlett Johansson as Kaa – ace. Idris Elba as Shere Khan – classic. Christopher Walken singing 'I Wanna Be Like You'? Not so good

THE JUNGLE BOOK

PG *Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Idris Elba, Scarlett Johansson*

★★★★☆

BEARS TIGERS CGI

JON FAVREAU'S REWORKING of Disney's reworking of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* is much bloodier in tooth and claw than the 1967 cartoon. Realised in astonishing CGI, with a very small amount of live action (Neel Sethi, as Mowgli, is the only flesh-and-bone character), it makes the life of a young boy brought up in the jungle less of a song-filled lark than a constant opportunity for being eaten.

The plot remains basically the same: baby Mowgli was found in the jungle and raised by wolves, watched over by a panther babysitter, hunted by a vengeful tiger. When said tiger, Shere Khan (Idris Elba), swears to kill him, Mowgli has to escape the animal world.

It's quite episodic, with Mowgli's adventure boiling down to a series of introductions to new animals who want to manipulate him for their own ends, but Favreau uses the quite thin story as an opportunity to give much of the running time to action sequences. He doesn't waste any of them, gifting each thrillingly edited chase its own personality. Mowgli tears through the tree tops to escape the rampaging tiger, through a crumbling temple, downriver as he's pursued by a landslide and tumbling wildebeest. CGI can be soulless when it's used unimaginatively, but used here to create lush, impossible worlds and animals so real you feel you could reach out and pet them, it becomes something magical.

It's not all threat; there's plenty of fun too, largely thanks to the voice casting of Bill Murray as Baloo, the bear who becomes Mowgli's partner in very low-level crime, mostly against bees. You just inherently want to hang with Bill Murray, even when he's hidden behind digital fake fur. There's only really one significant misstep in it, when it tries to work in one of the popular songs from the musical, 'I Wanna Be Like You', by having a giant orangutan (Christopher Walken) randomly break into song part way through a big speech. It's bizarre and wrong.

That sort of awkward attempt to tie itself to its predecessor is unnecessary. It's done enough to become beloved in its own right.

Olly Richards

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Disney's 1967 version of *The Jungle Book* was full of musical references. The vultures looked and sounded like The Beatles, while jazz singer Louis Prima played King Louie the orangutan.

PHOTOS: WALT DISNEY, ENTERTAINMENT ONE

(L-r:) King Louie (voiced by Christopher Walken) and Mowgli

A new kind of war film

A riveting thriller, in which soldiers with guns are out and high-tech cameras and long-range missiles are in

EYE IN THE SKY
15 ***Helen Mirren, Alan Rickman, Aaron Paul***
★★★★☆
WAR ETHICS EXCITEMENT

DIRECTOR GAVIN HOOD'S military drama takes place largely in real time. Colonel Katherine Powell (Helen Mirren) arrives at an underground military base in the UK and receives intel that three of the most wanted terrorists in the world have been tracked down to a house in Nairobi. She speaks to representatives of the UK Government in London and American drone operators to order a strike on the house. All is on plan until a young girl is spotted selling bread within the expected blast radius. Will anyone be prepared to give the order to kill the terrorists, and almost certainly save multiple lives, if it means definitely killing one child?

Working from a sleek script by Guy Hibbert, Hood presents difficult ethical puzzles, but he doesn't get weighed down in chin-stroking stodge. This moves with the velocity of a thriller, briskly and clearly edited as we flash around the world, watching politicians pass the buck for fear of being labelled as child-killers in the press and army personnel trying to make them see the larger picture, the time to actually do something useful quickly ticking away.

As an audience we're given no helping hand in deciding who to side with, because there is no right answer. Launch or abort, both decisions will result in death – but in one case they can see the face of the victim; in the other those faces are not yet known. It's a new kind of war movie. We're used to such things involving men with guns running at each other, but modern war is fought by people with high-tech cameras and long-range missiles watching from miles away.

Casting across the board is first-rate. Mirren is such a capable presence that we feel all her frustration at having her pragmatic approach muddied by people more senior and less intelligent. The late, great Alan Rickman gets lots of opportunity to be withering as a soldier babysitting nervy British politicians. Aaron Paul quietly carries most of the emotional weight as the grunt who'll have to launch the missile. It's a riveting thriller in which nobody's hands get dirty, but everyone's are covered in blood.
Olly Richards

Helen Mirren as Colonel Katherine Powell

JON SNOW
IS ALIVE!
SEASON SIX IS COMING...
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Ellie Kemper as Kimmy Schmidt

Life lessons from Kimmy Schmidt

The uncontrollably optimistic *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* is back on Netflix this week, where you can binge on the star's sunny demeanour to your heart's content. Here's what she's taught us so far

UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT
Netflix, April 15
Ellie Kemper, Jane Krakowski, Tituss Burgess
OPTIMISM WISDOM BANTS

"JUST TAKE IT TEN SECONDS AT A TIME"

Kimmy knows from her years locked in a bunker by an insane cult leader that to survive you've got to concentrate on now.
Use it when: You're longing to sweep everything off your desk and run tearfully to the work toilets.

Kimmy with housemate Titus

"IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT ON THE OUTSIDE, GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN"

Anyone who's watched *The X Factor* will know that no amount of peacocking can mask a butchered vocal run. But Kimmy has a point, and she should know after arriving in New York with nothing but a fixed smile and a disturbing back story – it's about lying to the world to make it think you're amazing.
Use it when: You want to impress a member of the opposite sex, or get a job.

"SMILE UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER. I CALL IT 'KIMMYING'"

No one has ever said "Turn that frown upside down" without having violent death wished upon them, but somehow when Kimmy beams this approximation of the same message it's not as bad. And guess what? "Kimmying" kind of works. After 30 minutes of insane grinning you can feel the serotonin slowly trickling in.
Use it when: You've just had a disappointing lunch, or a disappointing date, or a disappointing conversation, or seen a disappointing film.

"A FEMALE DOG – THE THING THAT MAKES PUPPIES? NICE COMPLIMENT!"

From years of batting away negative thoughts, Kimmy has perfected the forgotten art of taking an insult as a compliment – a fantastic counter-punching technique that will turn your enemies inside out.
Use it when: People are yelling at you down the phone, or honking their horn at you from a car, or drunkenly shouting at you with a traffic cone on their heads.

"BE YOU. BE WHAT YOU WANT. AND THEN BECOME UNBREAKABLE"

This is what Kimmy is all about: smiling defiantly at the maelstrom. It's all about empowerment encapsulated in a simple adage.
Use it when: You're naked on a table unencumbered and unembarrassed by your body. You're tearing your shirt open, falling to your knees and roaring to the heavens. You're on a rooftop during a thunderstorm, howling at the moon you cannot see with a glass of scotch in your hand.

Never seen *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt?*

Bone up for series two...

- Kimmy escaped from an underground bunker and moved to New York.
- She lives with a wannabe Broadway star called Titus.
- She worked for a wealthy woman called Jacqueline, played by Jenna from *30 Rock*. They started on rocky ground but became firm friends.
- Her captor (played by *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm) has been banged up.
- She's made a series of love decisions, some good, some bad.
- Whatever happens, it's always funny.

WORDS: JOSH BURT. PHOTOS: NETFLIX

Kevin Morby

Gothic greatness from America's newest folk hero

"I get very taken by feelings of doomed hopefulness"

KEVIN MORBY has always been attracted to the dark stuff. Growing up in Kansas City, he was fascinated by tragic news stories and his parents' tales of alcoholism and abuse in their families. "I get very taken by feelings of doomed hopefulness," he says down the phone from his hillside home in Los Angeles.

After moving to New York aged 18 and playing in Brooklyn bands Woods and The Babies, Kevin went out on his own with 2013's warm-but-creepy solo debut 'Harlem River' – with a friend's fatal struggle against heroin addiction and the Columbine high school massacre among its inspirations. Early comparisons to Lou Reed and Bob Dylan were backed up by 2014's rootsier 'Still Life'.

Recorded in Woodstock, 'Singing Saw' makes it three albums in three years and is dangerous, twisted and inviting all at once. The 28-year-old's distinctive maudlin vocal delivers songs to make you shiver, and his deathly stories – dreamt up during night-time walks among wild coyotes near his house – grip like gaffer tape.

"You can be sad about something really tangible like a relationship problem, but put it on this platform where somebody's about to be killed or something," he says excitedly, referencing album opener 'Cut Me Down'.

But 'Singing Saw' is as classic-sounding as it is fantastical, nodding to Leonard Cohen and cult north London folk hero Bill Fay alongside Dylan. The timelessness is quite deliberate. "I want to make music that any person in any age or era could like," Kevin finishes. 'Singing Saw' grants him that wish.

Ben Homewood

Details

BASED Los Angeles

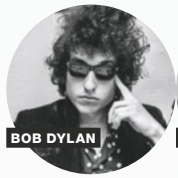
SOCIAL @kevinmorby

BUY 'Singing Saw' is out now on Dead Oceans

LIVE
May 5 Oslo Hackney, London

FACT Studio owner Dan James Goodwin's dog Trotsky was a constant presence throughout recording. "It was really nice," says Kevin.

FOR FANS OF



Best track

Dorothy

Named after Kevin's Fender Jaguar and smothered with buzzing guitar, keys and brass, the album's centrepiece does folk-rock on an epic scale.

For more on Kevin Morby, head to NME.com

PHOTOS: PA, REX, DUSDIN CONDREN

Government notice
Viral infection information

The virus is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** passing through the blood, saliva and body fluids.

Infection passed through **BITING** and **SCRATCHING.**

It takes less than **20 SECONDS** to become infected.

Symptoms of extreme **RAGE/ AGGRESSION.**

Fatalities caused from **INTERNAL HAEMORRHAGING.**

The infected are drawn to **SOUND/ NOISE.**

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There is NO CURE.

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live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK

1

NAO

Wed 20 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Thu 21 Gorilla, Manchester

WHO: Neo Jessica Joshua, an East London singer who came third in BBC Sound Of 2016. She's been working with Jai Paul's brother AK, so her alternative R&B is legit.
WHY: After touring with Swedish electro oddballs Little Dragon she's developed an electric stage presence.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Demo Taped, an electro/soul project from Atlantan dude Adam Alexander.
TICKETS: £9 from NME.com/tickets

2

Misty Miller

Fri 15 Arts Centre, Norwich
Sun 17 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Mon 18 Cavern, Liverpool
Tue 19 The Harley, Sheffield
Wed 20 Café INDIEpendent, Scunthorpe
Thu 21 The Studio, Hartlepool

WHO: South London 21-year-old who used to make acoustic folk and now makes spiky pop.
WHY: The transformation has done her loads of good – and she works wonders on One Direction's 'Steal My Girl'.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £5.50-£6.50 from ents24.com

3

Troye Sivan

Sat 16 QMU, Glasgow
Mon 18 Academy, Manchester
Tue 19 O2 Forum, London

WHO: Australian YouTuber-turned-popstar with millions of followers, whose synthy debut 'Blue Neighbourhood' was released in December.
WHY: This is a rare UK appearance – tickets are a precious commodity.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary ticketing sites from £50

5

Beach Baby

Tue 19 Stereo, Glasgow
Wed 20 Think Tank, Newcastle
Thu 21 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool

WHO: Four guys from Dorset and Athens who met at Goldsmiths and have since turned their talents to making stellar, fuzzy rock.
WHY: Their music is loads of fun – they're bound to blow up this summer.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Synth trio Babeheaven and Oxford indie lad Willie J Healey.
TICKETS: £6-£6.60 from ents24.com

4

Tinie Tempah

Sat 16 O2 Academy Brixton, London

WHO: London MC who shot to fame with 2009's 'Pass Out' and was Mercury-nominated in 2011. He's just released 'Girls Like', which contains an unexpected shout-out to *Harry Potter* author JK Rowling.
WHY: This is a huge comeback show in his hometown of London. It's gonna be big.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £35 from ents24.com

6

Muse

Fri 15 The O2, London
Sun 17 & **Mon 18** SSE Hydro, Glasgow

WHO: Devon's own rock veterans, now touring their seventh album 'Drones'.
WHY: It's completely over the top. You probably won't notice the music for the mind-boggling visuals.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: New York electro-rock duo Phantogram.
TICKETS: Sold out, but available on secondary ticketing sites from £43

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com

7

The View

Sat 16 SWX, Bristol
Sun 17 The 1865, Southampton
Mon 18 The Haunt, Brighton
Wed 20 Brooklyn Bowl, London
Thu 21 O2 Academy, Liverpool

WHO: Dundonian indie folks who released fifth album 'Ropewalk' last year, produced by The Strokes' Albert Hammond Jr.
WHY: To witness the power of their irrepressible frontman Kyle Falconer in person.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Liverpool four-piece The Stamp.
TICKETS: £15.40-£17.60 from ents24.com

8

Basia Bulat

Fri 15 Broadcast, Glasgow
Sat 16 Headrow House, Leeds
Tue 19 The Hope And Ruin, Brighton

WHO: Canadian indie/folk singer who's just released her fourth album 'Good Advice'.
WHY: You might know her for her autoharp musings, but her new material is much more amped up.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £7-10 from NME.com/tickets

9

Twin Peaks

Sat 16 Stereo, Glasgow
Sun 17 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Tue 19 Barfly, London

WHO: Relentless workers from Chicago who fit somewhere between Oasis, T Rex and The Kinks. They're releasing their third album 'Down In Heaven' in May.
WHY: They've been touring for two years, so they know how to make a show go off.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £8 from NME.com/tickets

10

The Magic Gang

Sat 16 The Bullingdon, Oxford
Mon 18 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Wed 20 The Horn, St Albans
Thu 21 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

WHO: Brighton four-piece who mix psych, indie and Motown inspirations. They released the stellar 'EP' in January.
WHY: They're, er, magic.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Vitamin, an indie quartet who are mates with Rat Boy.
TICKETS: £6 from NME.com/tickets

Best of the rest

HOLY ESQUE

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, JOE HART, POONEH GHANA, HANS-PETER VAN VELTHOVEN

Adam Lambert
Sat 16 Academy, Manchester

Afrikan Boy
Wed 20 Electric Circus, Edinburgh
Thu 21 Band on the Wall, Manchester

Alxndr
Fri 15 O2 Academy, Leicester
Sat 16 O2 Academy, Oxford
Tue 19 O2 Academy, Liverpool
Wed 20 The ABC, Glasgow
Thu 21 O2 Academy, Sheffield

Anchorsong
Sun 17 Green Door Store, Brighton

Artful Dodger
Fri 15 The Nest, London

Augustines
Tue 19 Electric Ballroom, London
Wed 20 Academy, Manchester

READER'S PICK

Kieran
19, Birmingham
@KillKieran

The Magic Gang
Mon 18 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
"The atmosphere they created when they were supporting Swim Deep was incredible!"

C Duncan
Sun 17 Arts Centre, Norwich

Damien Jurado
Sat 16 St Philip's Church, Manchester
Sun 17 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Mon 18 Islington Assembly Hall, London

Eliza And The Bear
Fri 15 Academy, Manchester
Sat 16 The Garage, Glasgow

Eliza Shaddad
Tue 19 Octagon Chapel, Norwich
Wed 20 Westgarth Social Club, Middlesbrough
Thu 21 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh

Elliphant
Sat 16 Oslo, London

Explosions In The Sky
Tue 19 Barrowland, Glasgow

Fumaça Preta
Thu 21 Soup Kitchen, Manchester

Holy Esque
Fri 15 The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
Sat 16 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham
Wed 20 The Lexington, London

Island
Wed 20 Oslo, London

Jack Garratt
Fri 15 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Jazz Cartier
Tue 19 Headrow House, Leeds
Wed 20 XOYO, London

Jeff Wootton
Wed 23 Night & Day Café, Manchester
Thu 24 100 Club, London

John Cooper Clarke
Fri 15 Guildhall, Gloucester
Thu 21 Princess Theatre, Torquay

Liima
Fri 15 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Fri 16 Patterns, Brighton

Little Mix
Fri 15 First Direct Arena, Leeds
Sat 16 Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle
Tue 19 SSE Arena, Belfast
Thu 21 Echo Arena, Liverpool

The Lumineers
Fri 15 Barrowland, Glasgow
Tue 19 Albert Hall, Manchester

Mitski
Tue 19 Birthdays, London

Money
Wed 20 The Harley, Sheffield

Nerina Pallot
Fri 15 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sat 16 Colston Hall, Bristol
Mon 18 Union Chapel, London
Tue 19 The Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth
Wed 20 The Stables, Milton Keynes
Thu 21 Waterfront, Norwich

Newton Faulkner
Fri 15 Rock City, Nottingham
Sat 16 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sun 17 O2 Forum, London
Wed 20 Corn Exchange, Ipswich
Thu 21 Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth

Ought
Mon 18 Music Hall, Ramsgate
Tue 19 Colston Hall, Bristol
Wed 20 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Thu 21 Islington Mill, Manchester

Shonen Knife
Sat 16 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sun 17 Dingwalls, London
Tue 19 Princess Pavilion, Falmouth
Wed 20 The Joiners, Southampton
Thu 21 The Haunt, Brighton

Teleman
Fri 15 Motion, Bristol

Tiga
Sat 16 XOYO, London

Vant
Sun 17 The Louisiana, Bristol
Mon 18 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff
Tue 19 Sin City, Swansea
Wed 20 The Dome, London

The Vryll Society
Fri 15 Café INDIEpendent, Scunthorpe
Sat 16 The Ferret, Preston

Wolfmother
Sat 16 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Sun 17 O2 Academy, Bristol
Mon 18 Guildhall, Southampton
Wed 20 O2 Forum, London

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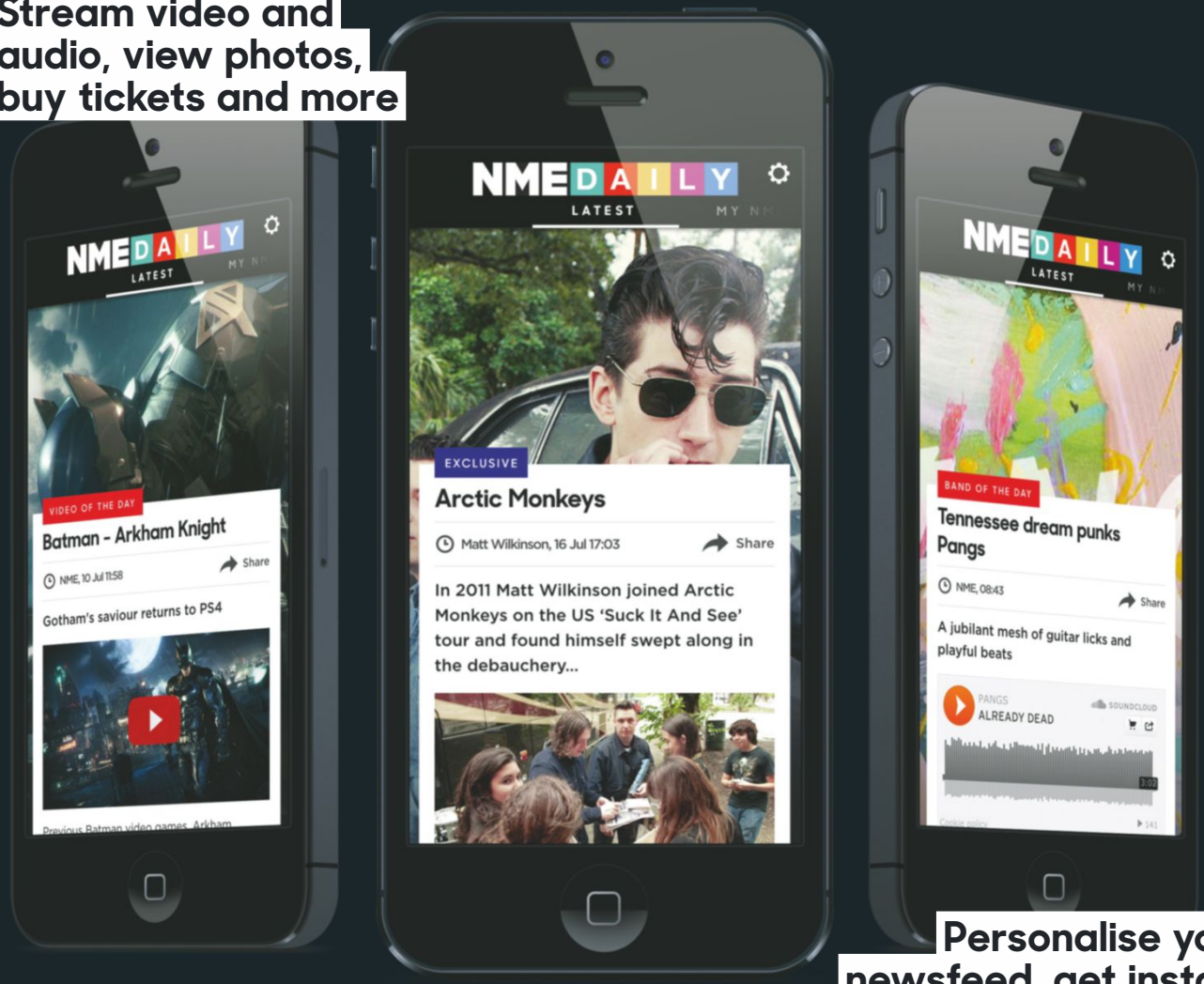

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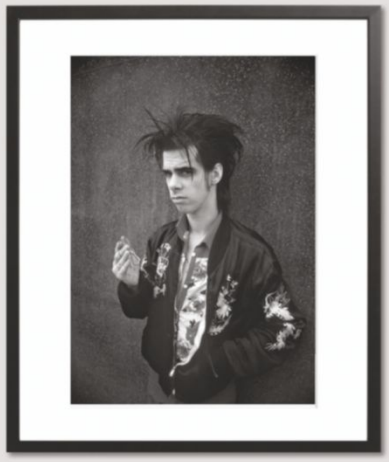

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Soundtrack of my life

Howard Marks

Drug smuggler, author and cult hero who died last week

Howard Marks, 1945-2016

The first song I remember hearing

EDRIC CONNOR AND THE CARIBBEANS
Day Dah Light

"This was released in 1952, when I was seven. The singer and the backing group were Trinidadian and the song was the inspiration for Jamaican-American singer Harry Belafonte's 1956 hit 'Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)', which still gets occasionally spun at very odd club nights throughout the world. And I still love it."

The first song I fell in love with

EDDIE COCHRAN
Twenty Flight Rock

"I was fond of Bill Haley's 'Rock Around The Clock', and various prehistoric Elvis Presley tracks, but this 1957 single topped them all. I had the unbelievable experience of seeing Eddie perform it in Bristol on April 16, 1960, an hour or so before he was killed in a car crash. He was my favourite rock'n'roll singer."

EDDIE COCHRAN

The song that reminds me of my crime days

BOBBY FULLER FOUR
I Fought The Law

"According to the song, *'the law won'*, as it did in reality. We all got busted and most of us served lengthy prison sentences. But the fun we had smuggling was second to none. I still fight the law, but now I focus on the clearly unjust laws, with the illegality of cannabis taking first priority."

The song that reminds me of prison

SAM COOKE *Chain Gang;* ELVIS PRESLEY *Jailhouse Rock;* JIMMY BUFFET *If The Phone Doesn't Ring, It's Me*

"I can't reduce this to just one song. I hasten to add I was never on a chain gang, the warden never threw a party and I didn't have a phone. But each of these tracks prickled my soul when it came on the radio."

The first album I ever bought

ELVIS PRESLEY
Elvis Presley

"I already had virtually all the tracks, but only on 78 RPM, and attrition – sitting on them when pissed – had taken its toll. I treasured this, my only LP, for years until poverty forced me to sell it to a second-hand record shop in 1968."

The song I wish I'd written (or had been written about me)

ANYTHING BY STEPPENWOLF

"I would have loved to have been somehow associated with 'Don't Step On The Grass, Sam', 'Born To Be Wild' or 'Magic Carpet Ride'. The vocalist, John Kay, was particularly talented, making every syllable resonate."

STEPPENWOLF

The song I can no longer listen to

VARIOUS
My Way

"It's not because of the song itself, particularly when sung by Sid Vicious, but due to the celebrities who arrogantly claim the song was written about them. The original was actually a 1967 French pop song that caught the attention of Paul Anka, who adapted it for Sinatra."

Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks

The song that makes me want to dance

UNDERWORLD
Born Slippy

"When I was imprisoned in 1988, the UK chart toppers were tracks such as Phil Collins' 'Groovy Kind Of Love' and Belinda Carlisle's 'Heaven Is A Place On Earth'. Excellently produced, but they never propelled me to the dancefloor. After I was released in 1995, I attended a rave in a cave in Majorca, dropped some very pure ecstasy, and the DJ played this. Even today and even without drugs, I just have to hear the first few bars and I want to find a dancefloor."

The song I want played at my funeral

BIRDSONG

"I don't really want a funeral, but if one happens, my wish is for there to be no sadness whatsoever. I've had far too wonderful a life for any of that. As regards what song I'd like, it would be birdsong, not played, but uttered spontaneously by nature."

***Mr Smiley: My Last Pill And Testament* by Howard Marks is out now**

NME WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK
LADY GAGA
Pop badass
April 18, 2011

"If you want me to be manufactured, you can f*ck off."

INTERVIEW: MARK BEAUMONT. PHOTOS: ANTHONY UPTON /REX/SHUTTERSTOCK, GETTY IMAGES

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